

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SEOUL 01209 110828Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 /043 W

-----110833Z 005035 /21

R 110755Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2074

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 1209

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: KS, PINT

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT SAYS HE IS CONSIDERING EVENTUAL CONSTRUCTION
OF NEW CAPITAL

1. DURING HIS FEBRUARY 10 INSPECTION OF SEOUL MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT, PRESIDENT PAK STATED FIRST TIME PUBLICLY THAT HE IS CONSIDERING CONSTRUCTION OF "TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATIVE CAPITAL" ON LINES OF BONN, ONE HOUR'S DRIVE FROM SEOUL, BUT HE GAVE NO INDICATION OF WHERE OR WHEN. (TAEJON IS SOUTH, ON EXPRESSWAY AND RAILWAY.) PRESIDENT JUSTIFIED PROPOSED MOVE BY INVOKING PROBLEMS OF CONTROLLING EVER-INCREASING SEOUL POPULATION, BUT DID NOT DIRECTLY MENTION SECURITY RATIONALE WHICH HAS BEEN ANOTHER MAIN REASON GIVEN BY SOME WHO HAVE TALKED OF THIS POSSIBILITY TO US BEFORE.

2. PAK ALSO SAID HE WAS AWARE OF POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL QUESTIONS INVOLVED, UNDERSCORING PLEDGE THAT GOVT. POLICY "TO PROTECT SEOUL TO THE END IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CAN NEVER BE CHANGED" AND THAT PRESIDENT AND MAJOR ORGANIZATIONS OF GOVERNMENT, OF COURSE, WOULD "IMMEDIATELY RETURN TO SEOUL TO COPE WITH ANY EMERGENCY."

3. NDP SPOKESMAN REACTED TO PAK'S PROPOSAL WITH MUCH THE SAME ENTHUSIASM EVINced BY DRP PARTY MEMBERS. NDP

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SEOUL 01209 110828Z

MAINTAINED THAT NDP HAD PROPOSED SAME IDEA SEVERAL TIMES AND HAD EVEN QUESTIONED ROKG ABOUT POSSIBILITY AT LAST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, ALTHOUGH GOVT. SAID THEN SUCH PLANS WERE PREMATURE. (DURING LAST PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN, KIM TAE-CHUNG SUGGESTED TAEJON AS LIKELY SITE.) OPPOSITION PARTY ALSO ISSUED CAVEAT THAT PLAN MUST BE "SCRUPULOUSLY EXAMINED."

4. COMMENT: THIS WILL OF COURSE BE A VERY MAJOR UNDER-
TAKING INVOLVING MANY PROBLEMS AND STRONG OFFICIAL SUPPORT
PROBABLY HIDES A GOOD MANY QUALMS EVEN IN GOVERNMENT QUARTERS.
THOSE CONTACTED ARE ALREADY DISCUSSING PROBLEMS OF
COMMUTING. ECONOMISTS HAVE SAID COST WILL BE ENORMOUS.
ALSO, NOTICE THAT GOVT. WOULD IMMEDIATELY RETURN TO DEFEND
SEOUL IN CASE OF ATTACK IS BEING TAKEN WARILY AND WITH
GRAIN OF SALT.
SNEIDER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, SITE SURVEYS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL01209
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770049-0479
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770249/aaaabrkn.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 521b6ec7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3338458
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT SAYS HE IS CONSIDERING EVENTUAL CONSTRUCTION OF NEW CAPITAL
TAGS: PINT, KS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/521b6ec7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009